

EBNN



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Quoth the Raven

First of all, I'd like to thank **Matt Wagner** (of **MAGE**, **GRENDDEL**, and **DEMON** fame) for the fantastic cover of this issue. Thank you for sharing your talent with us Matt.

Now... I'm tired of writing it and I bet you probably feel the same about reading it. So let's cut the **HYPE** and let's talk...

It's hard getting back into the "writing" groove after a nice vacation. Lauren and I have just recently returned from two weeks of fun and sun, surf and sand, rest and relaxation in the Hawaiian Islands. Yep, the latest and greatest state in the good ol' U.S. of A. We had a wonderful time to say the least.

I really enjoyed the snorkeling in the crystal clear waters of the Pacific. The fish were numerous and the colors stunning. Here's a "deep sea diving" tip to anyone else planning a south seas excursion: Bring plenty of frozen peas. Don't eat 'em (I know you'll be tempted), save 'em for the fish. The little guys go nuts over those pasty green balls. Imagine floating in about five feet of ocean, peering through the porthole of your mask onto the sandy floor and spying a few dozen rainbow-striped "thingamajigs" cruising lazily past. Then, just rip open those "Birds-Eyes". You get the same sensation as if you just tapped a keg at a college party. Suddenly every fish within shouting distance (We're talking underwater sound travel here!) has become your best buddy. As the little suckers scarf up those peas, you're getting a color show that makes "Miami Vice" look like a re-run of "The Untouchables". For a week it was my duty to make sure that "technicolor of the deep" received their daily allowance of vitamin A. Then someone told me some of the beaches were shark-infested. I spent the rest of our vacation in the wading pool.

Another delight was the volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. The entire Hawaiian chain (Composed of over a hundred islands, but only eight are inhabited.) is actually the top of an

underwater volcanic mountain range. All the volcanoes are "dead" now except the ones on the Big Island. (Gee, who said comics weren't educational.) The volcano we saw was called the Kilauea Caldera (Which means "Don't touch, it's HOT!" in Hawaiian.). The most incredible thing about the volcanic area was **NOTHING!** There was **NOTHING** swimming, flying, walking, or growing for as far as you could see. Only mile after mile of barren, lava-covered wasteland, dotted with an occasional steaming sulfur pit (and if you appreciate a good rotten egg like I do, you'll love these little babies!), filled the horizon. It made me realize what a swinging joint the Earth was just a few short billion years ago. In the center of "Mad Max's Holiday Retreat" was the culprit of the world's largest pet rock farm, the Halemaumau (Roughly translated from early Polynesian: "There goes the neighborhood!") Crater. This is one big hole! Being the kind of guy that likes living on the edge, I allowed Lauren to drag me over to the rim of the crater (Yep, they actually allow you to walk right up to the mouth of the volcano and throw in the sacrifice of your choice. Too bad I gave at the office.) Well, you look down into what looks like the world's largest hot tub and then you take a few (thousand) steps back. Oh, about two hundred feet down, on the bottom of the crater, is a thin layer of hardened lava and, according to the people in the know, beneath this covering is a bubbling, red hot lake of lava. We're talking one wrong step and it's deep-fried comic book writer. Well, I swear the brakes on our little rent-a-car didn't work until we were on the other side of the island.

We actually had a great time in Hawaii and hope to return real soon. So stop by the **NOW COMICS**' booth at your next comic con and I'll show you our vacation slides. It'll only take a couple of hours and you'll never get enough of seeing me standing in front of one great tropical setting after another. Hey, that's me in the Lava Tree Forest. Here I am on the Black Sands Beach...

Michael Dimpsey



Here I am waiting for a bus in the wasteland.

BITTER CREEK. A MERE SPECK IN THE VAST HOSTILITY OF THE WASTELANDS...



DIRTY DINGO DAWG. OUTLAW, GUNFIGHTER, AND KILLER... THE MOST FEARED ANIMAL IN THE WASTELANDS.

SO WHAT'D THE BOSS DO NEXT, STENCH?

WELL, BOB, OL' COCK TYSON WASN'T SO DAG-BLAMED COCKY...

...WHEN "TRIPLE D" TOOK THAT BRAND-ING IRON, AN' STUCK 'IM WHERE THE FEATHERS DON'T GROW...

OH! THAT SOUNDS PAINFUL!

YEAH, HE COMMENCED TA CLUCKIN' LIKE A MOTHER HEN! NEVER WOULD'VE FOUND THAT NEST-EGG HE HID IF IT WEREN'T FER...

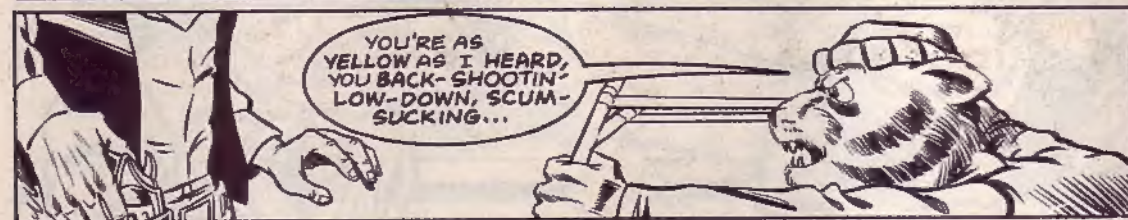
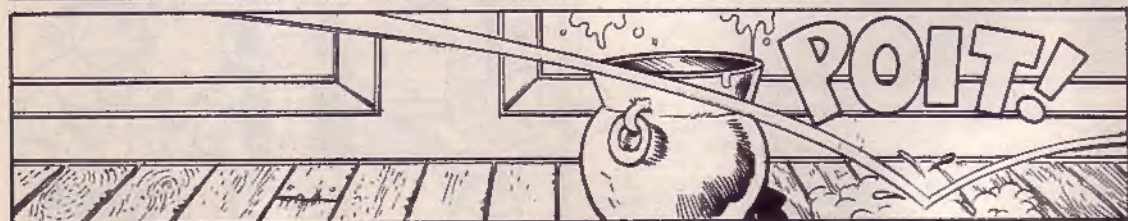
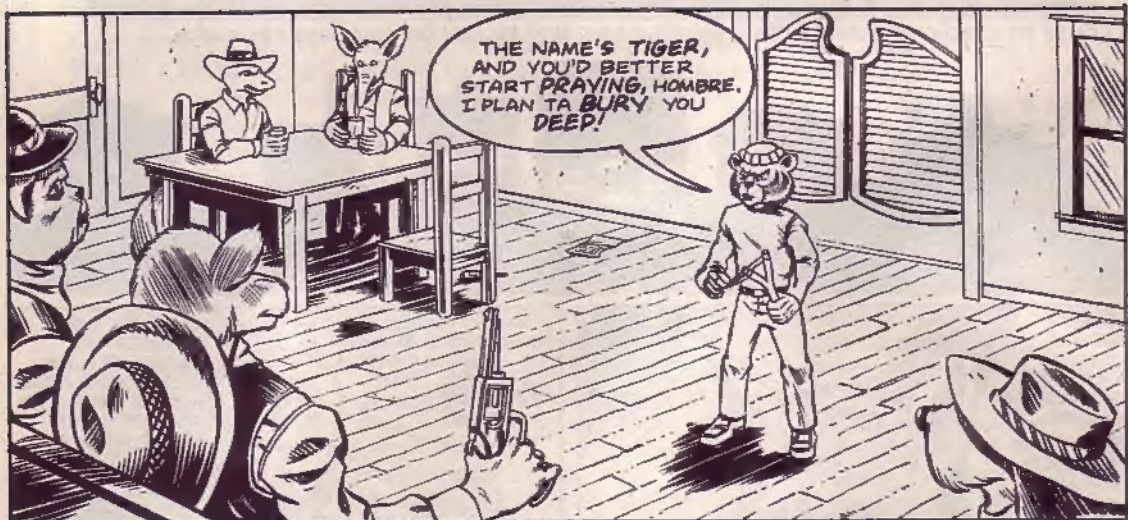
... DIRTY DINGMUMPH?

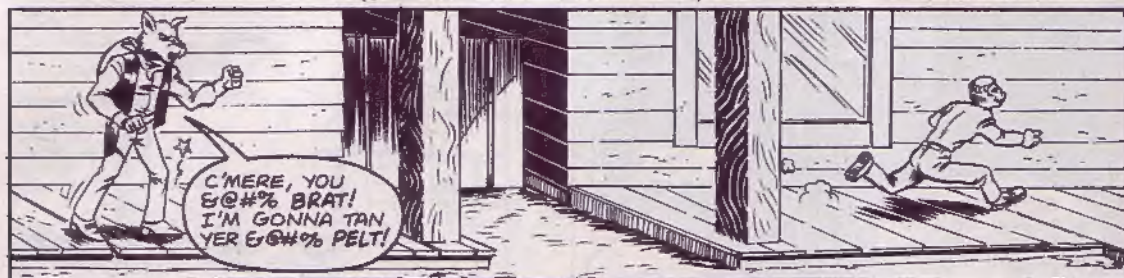
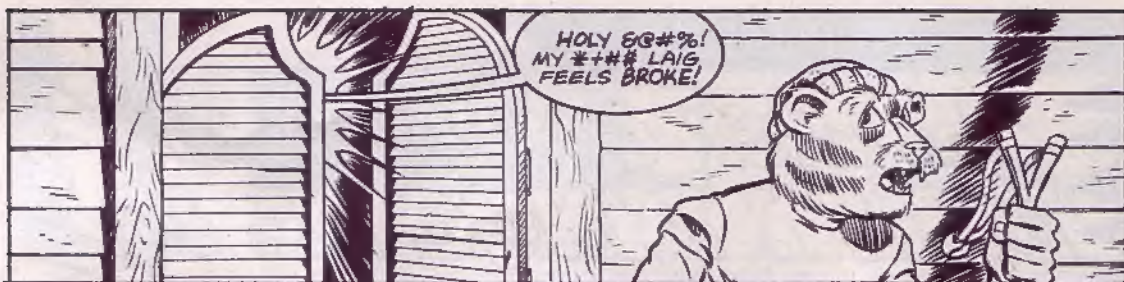
COULD BE YER TIRED OF GABBIN', STENCH?

HUM-MUMPH, HUM-MUMPH!

DIRTY DINGO DAWG, PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER!

WHO THE ?#!@%?





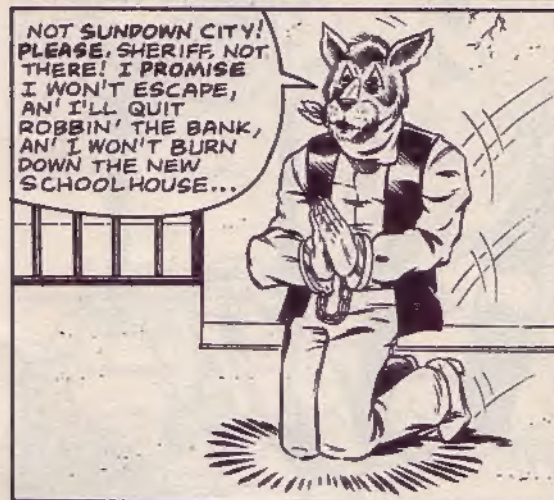
The LAST GUNFIGHT OF DIRTY DINGO DAWG



MIKE DIMPSEY
WRITER

CHRIS ECKER
PENCILS/LETTERS

BRIAN THOMAS
INKS/COLORS

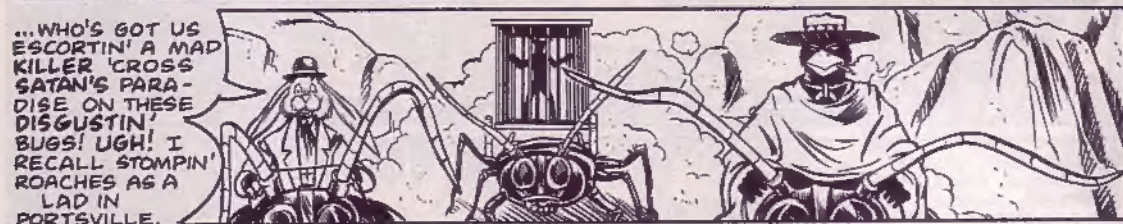




WHAT'RE WE DOIN' OUT HERE IN THE WASTELANDS?



THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' OUT HERE BUT SAND, ROCKS, AND MORE SAND! IF I HAD MY WAY, WE'D ALL BE BACK IN TOWN, SETTIN' 'ROUND THE POOL AND ENJOYIN' A TALL, COOL ONE! SO WHY AM I HERE, YA ASK? CAUSE O' THAT NO GOOD, SONUVA BLACK-BIRD...



...WHO'S GOT US ESCORTIN' A MAD KILLER 'CROSS SATAN'S PARADISE ON THESE DISGUSTIN' BUGS! UGH! I RECALL STOMPIN' ROACHES AS A LAD IN PORTSVILLE.



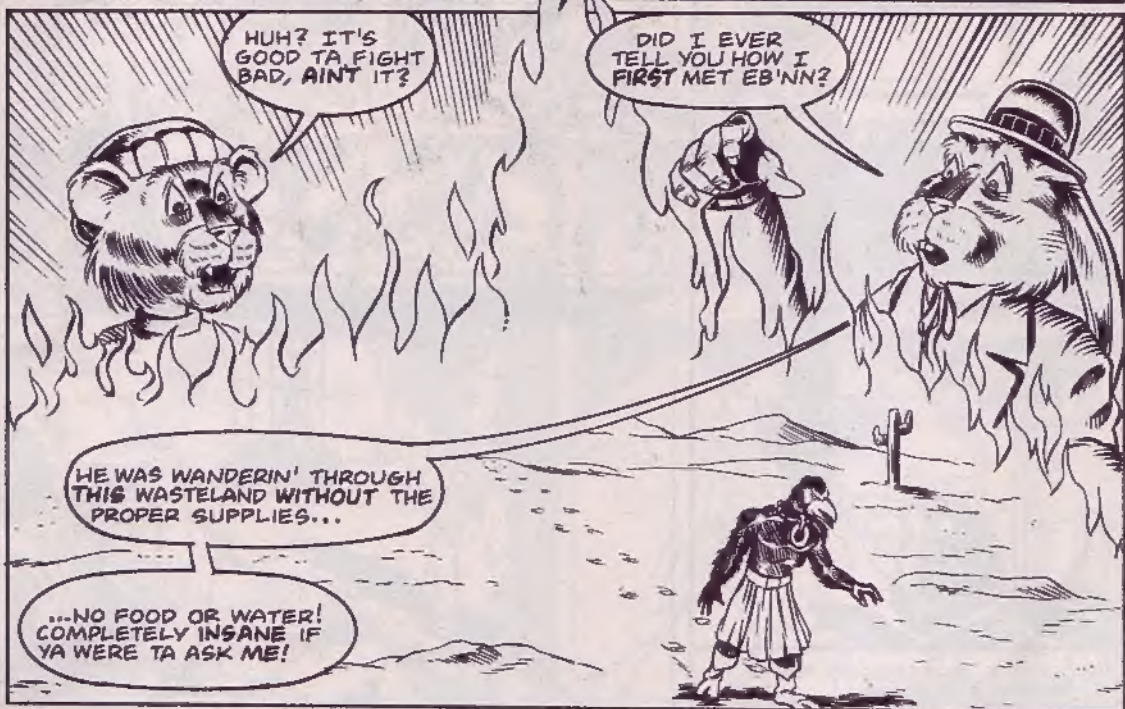
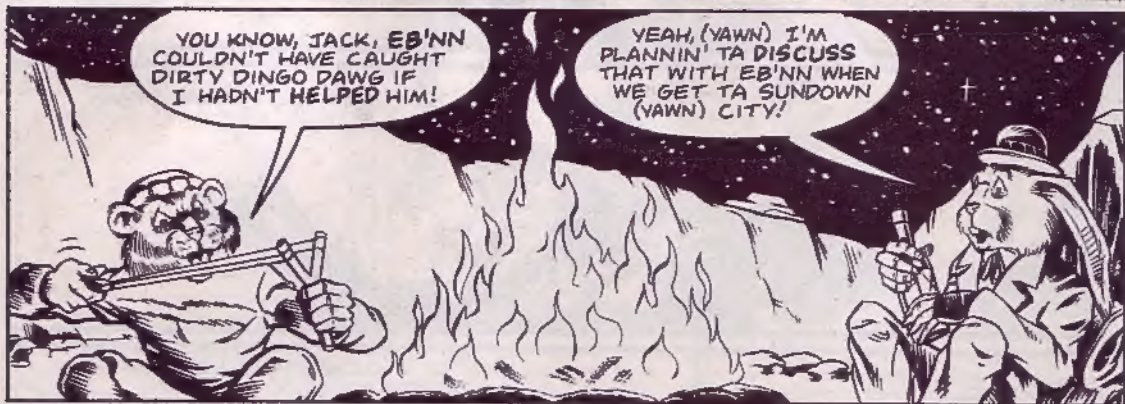
THESE CRAWLERS ARE NOTHIN', JACK! YOU SHOULD SEE THE ONES THAT LIVE IN THE SEWERS UNDER NEW EDEN. SMART, AND MEAN!

NOT HALF AS MEAN AS MY GANG IS GONNA BE WITH YOU WHEN THEY CATCH UP WITH US!



I SINCERELY DOUBT THAT A BLOKE O' YER CHARACTOR COULD INSTILL AN OUNCE O' LOYALTY IN ANYONE!

HEH! HEH! WELL FANCY-PANTS, IF MY GANG DON'T COME... I GUESS I'LL JEST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU MYSELF!





"T' THIS DAY, I'VE NEVER
DISCOVERED WHAT HE
WAS DOIN' OUT THERE..."



"...OR WHO HE WAS (YAWN)
RUNNIN' FROM..."



"IF I KNOW EB'NN, HE WAS
PROBABLY TRYIN' TA (YAWN)
KILL HIMSELF!"



BLIMEY, MATE,
YA LOOK LIKE
YA COULD USE
A DRINK!

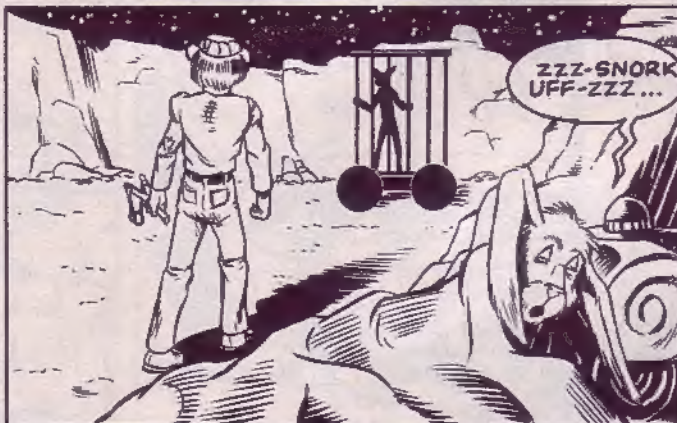
"WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED, TOO IF IT
WEREN'T FOR ME....."



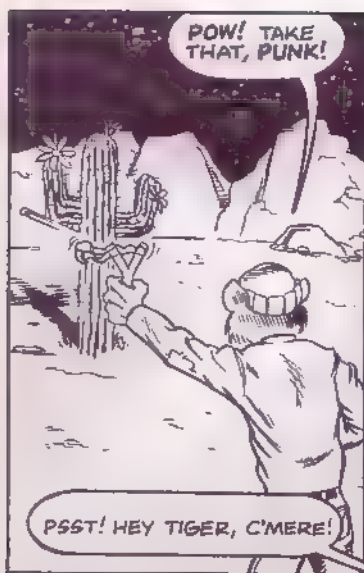
JACK, JACK...
AIN'T YA GONNA
FINISH YER
STORY?

SNORKZ

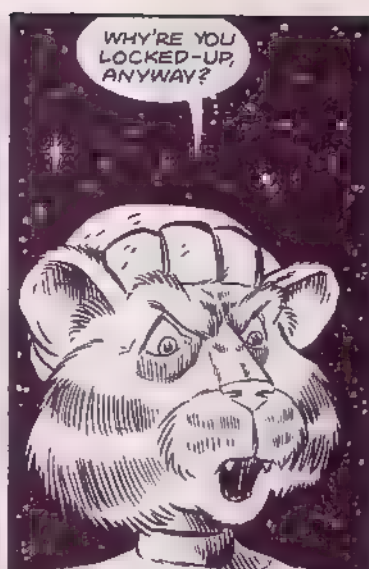
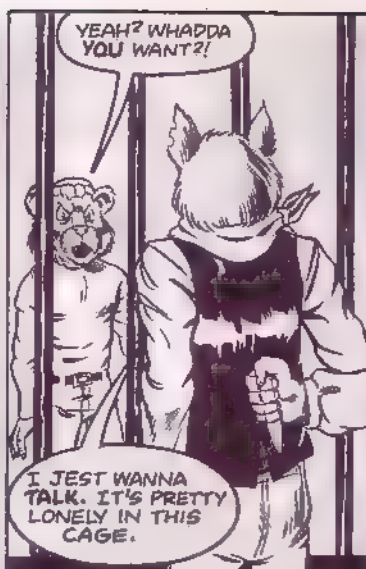
GUESS
NOT.



ZZZ-SNORK
UFF-ZZZ...

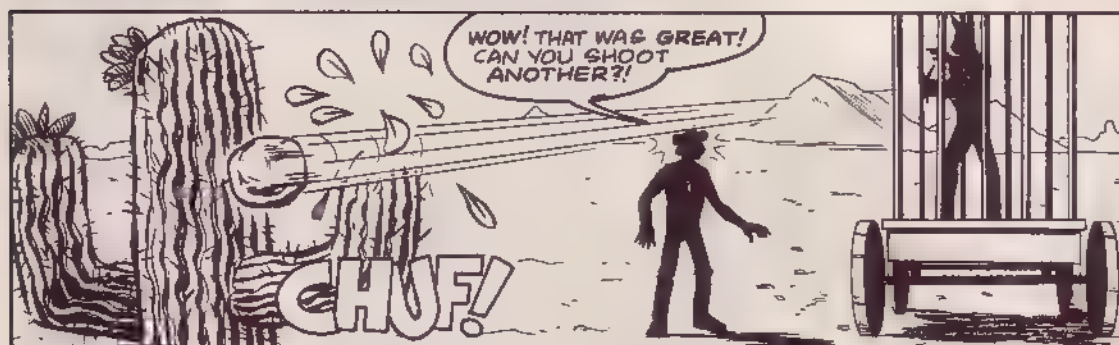
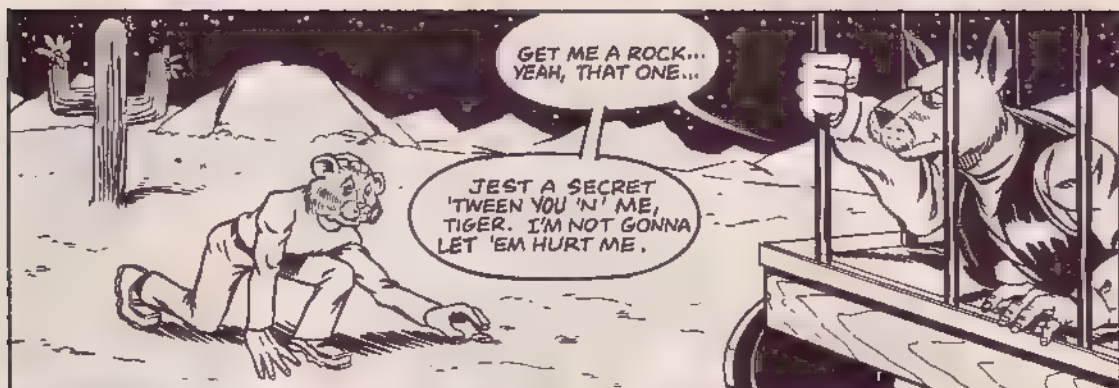


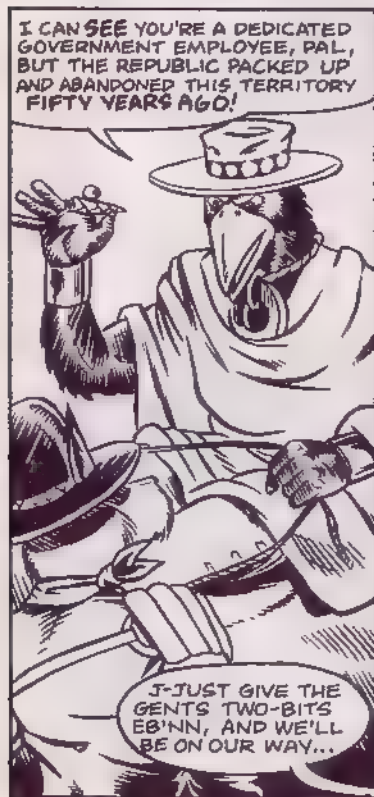
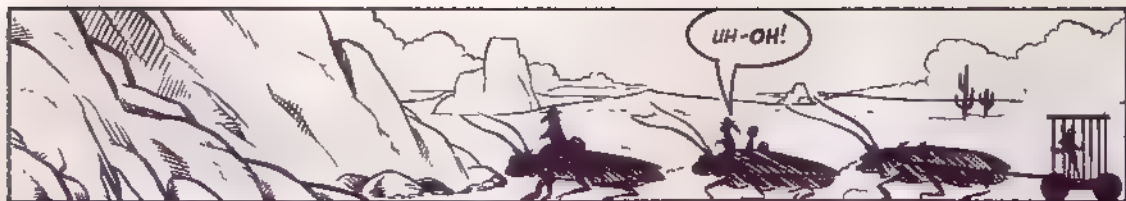
PSST! HEY TIGER, C'MERE!

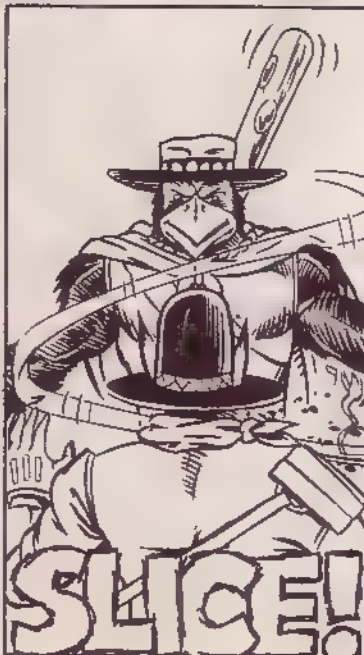


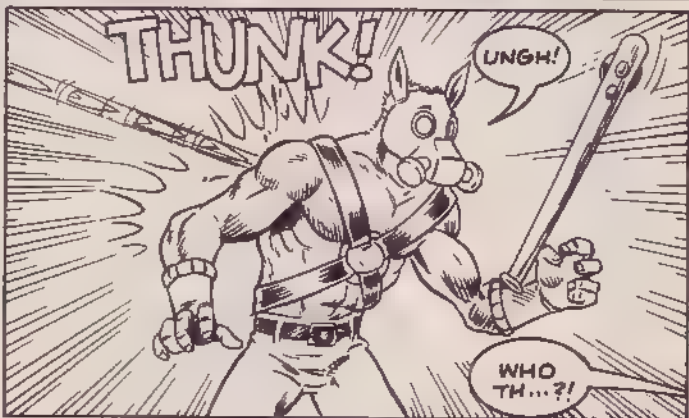
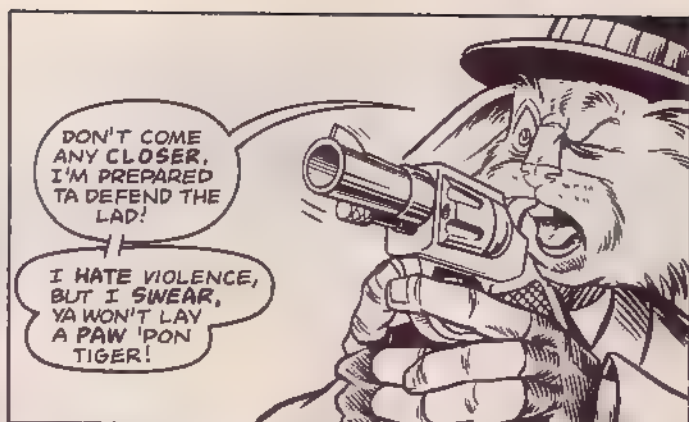
GEE, MY MA USED TA SEND ME TO BED WHEN I WAS BAD. WHEN'RE THEY GONNA LET YOU OUT?

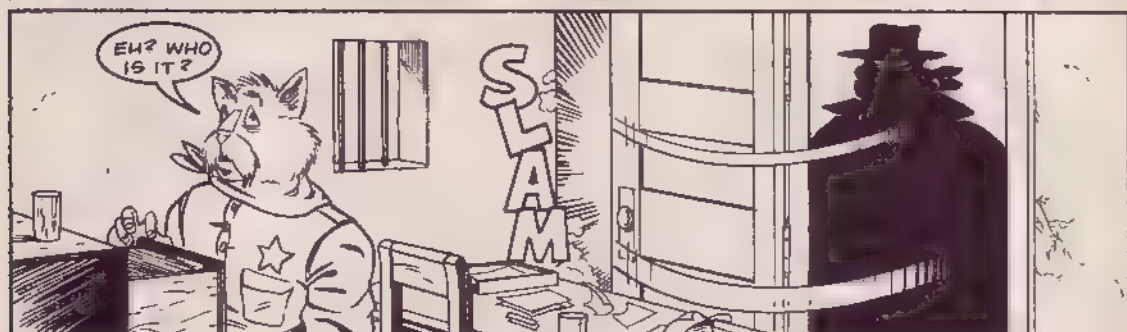




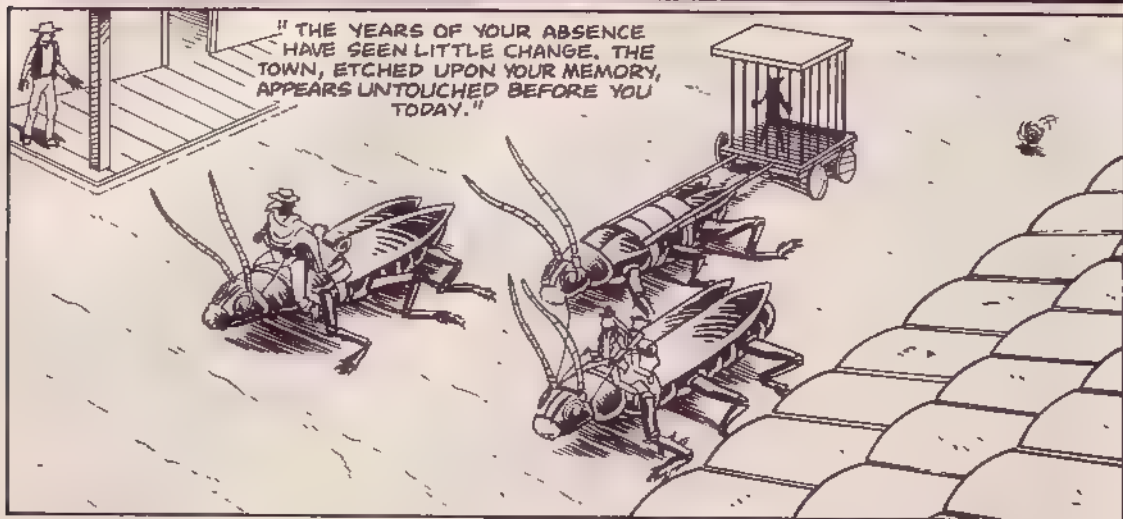








"SUNDOWN CITY.
THIS IS WHERE
YOU WERE BORN."



"YOU DIDN'T WANT
TO RETURN..."



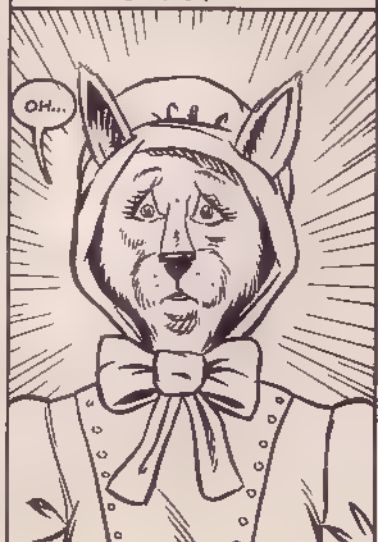
"A SMALL TOWN IN THE
MIDDLE OF A BARREN WASTE-
LAND OFFERS LITTLE TO A
YOUNG ANIMAL... YET, YOU
HAD ALL YOU COULD EVER WANT."



"YOU HAD THE LOVE OF A
FAMILY, THE COMPANIONSHIP
OF FRIENDS... AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY..."



"...YOU HAD A REASON
TO LIVE."



DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK

TM & © 1986 Jim Engel

by Jim Engel

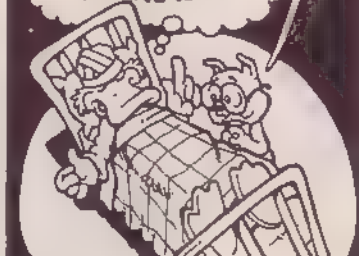
DICK RECOVERATES FROM
PAVLOV'S FIRST LESSON IN
PRIVATE DETECTION...



I DUNNO, SHORT STUFF,
I DONT FEEL SO HOT...

BUT I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING SO HARD!

!SIGH! THE KID
MEANS WELL...



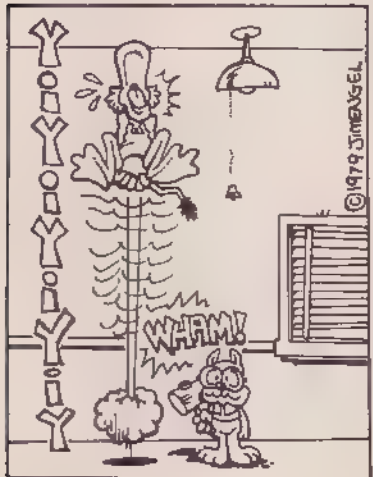
AWRIGHT PAV, I'LL WALK
AROUND THE OFFICE,
+ YOU CAN TRY
"TAILING" ME..



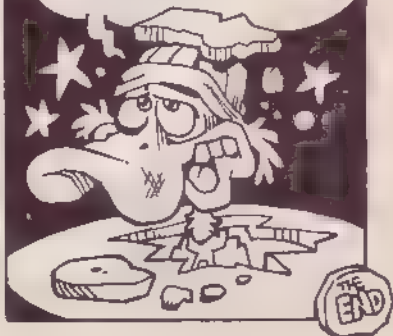
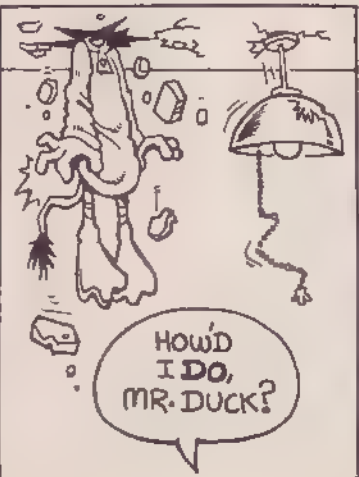
THE LITTLE GUY PROBABLY
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW
WHAT "TAILING"
MEANS!

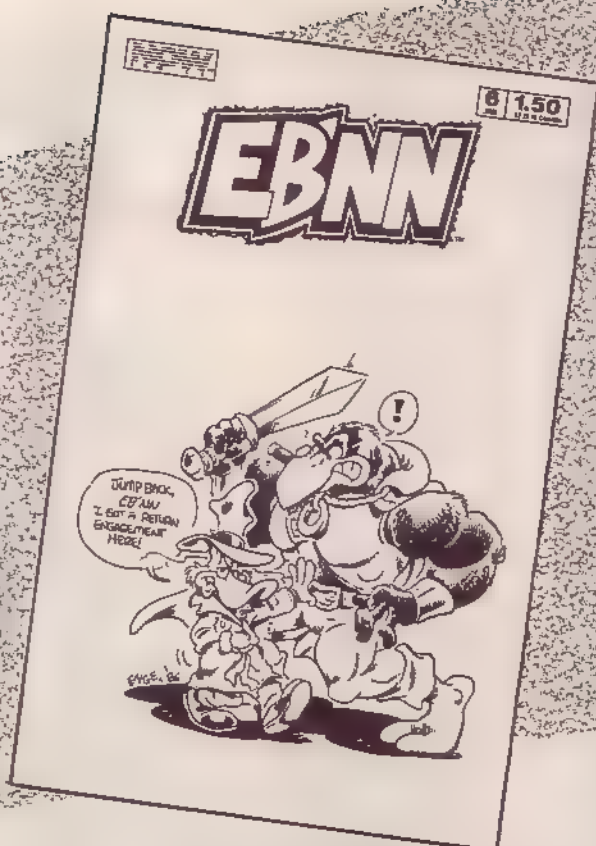


HOLY
SHI-



THIS JOB WAS A HECK
OF A LOT EASIER BEFORE
I HAD AN
ASSISTANT !!





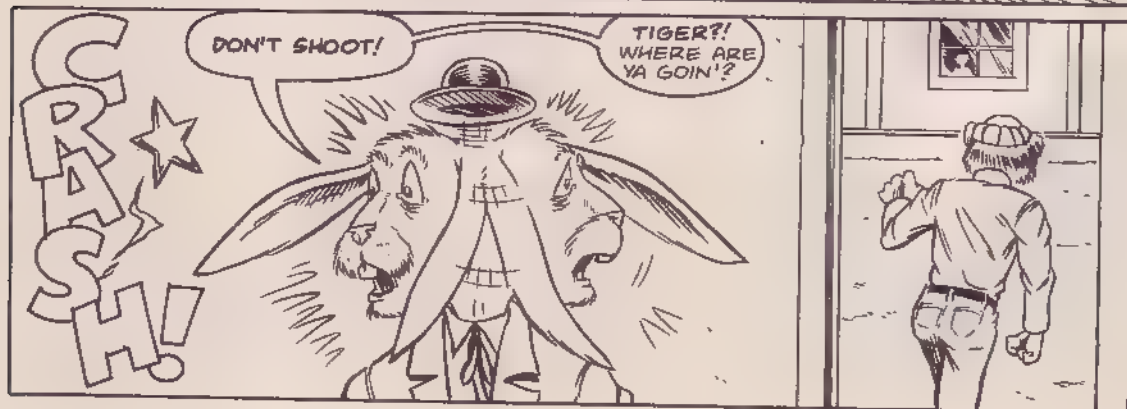
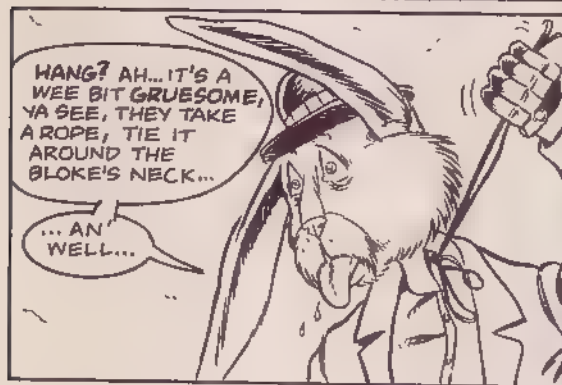
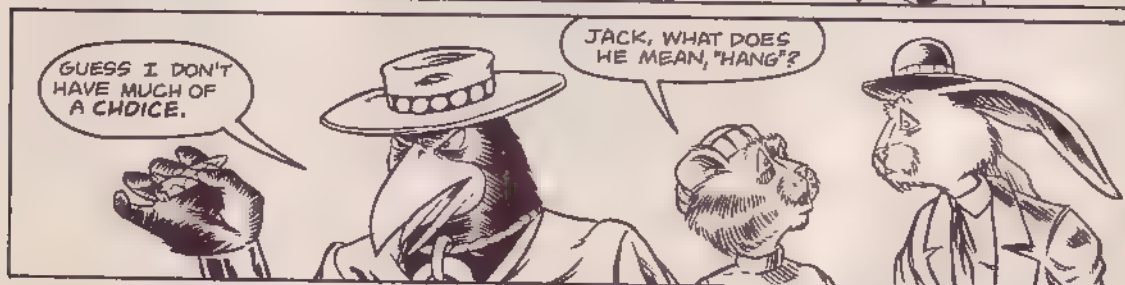
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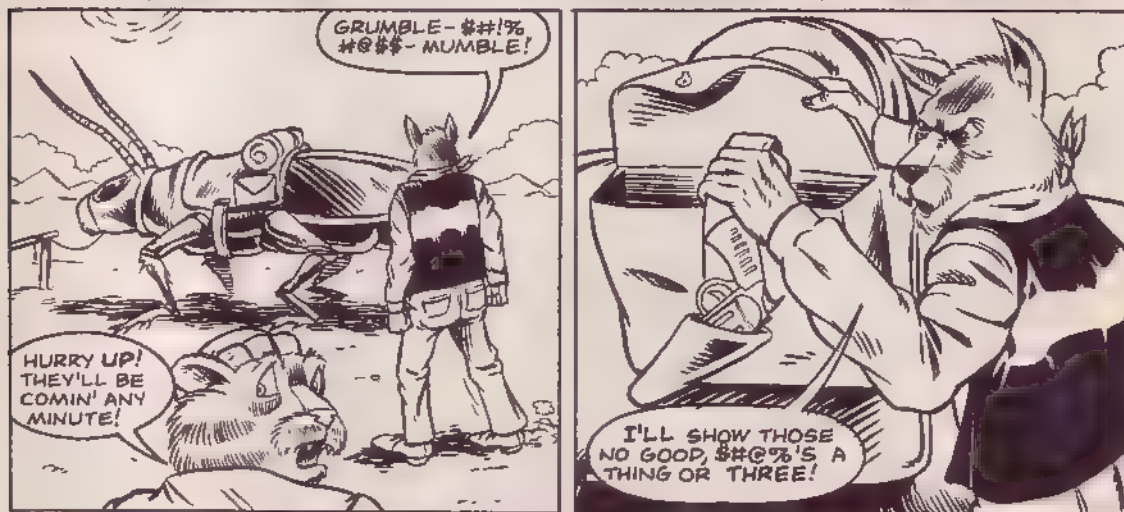
COMING NEXT ISSUE!

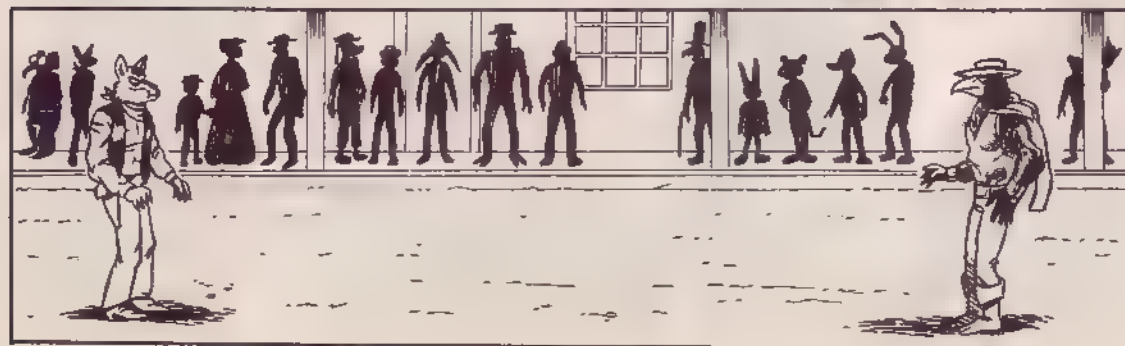
Witness history in the making, the long awaited return of Jim Engel's DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK! A never-before published 9 page episode that you won't want to miss!

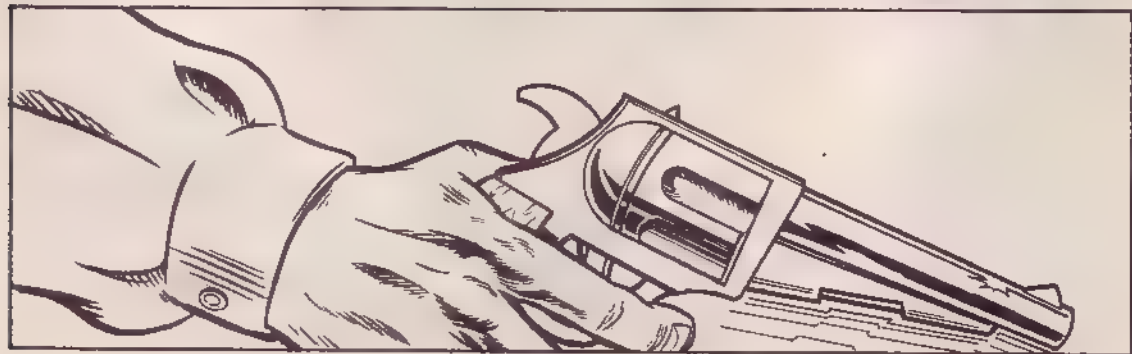
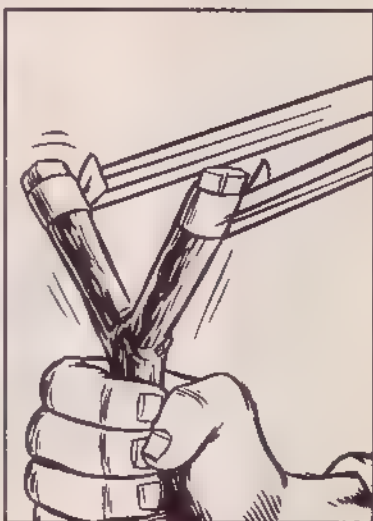
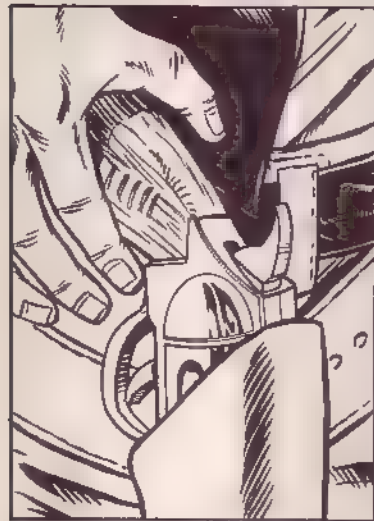
On sale in early January!

NOW
COMICS













RAVEN RAVINGS

Send letters to: NOW COMICS c/o EB'NN, P.O. Box 8042, Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Eb'nny Ones,

"Bringing Up Baby" (#4) was quite a change of pace from the three-part story with which this title debuted. This was essentially a goofy "mad scientist" romp. Despite the "life and death threat" posed by Doctor Leo Phylum, the aura was more like that of Laurel and Hardy in a haunted house than of a brave warrior protecting pals from a deadly opponent.

Now, this is not to say that it wasn't a good story. Certainly, it was a change of pace from the much more grim "death and drugs" theme of the previous three issues. However, the swing in the mood of the story was a great one. I think you will have to decide more precisely what sort of atmosphere you want to project in this mag. Too many light-hearted, goofy stories like this one and it becomes harder to accept the continuing characters in a grimmer environment. (This is what happened in the otherwise excellent movie "Excalibur", for instance. The opening scenes were generally so light-hearted and comedic that for the most part the audience could not accept the later parts, which were much more grim, and thus the impact of the movie was much diminished.)

On its own, though, the story worked fairly well, with a few amusing surprises. Also, we got a quick glance at Eb'nn's "origin". But there are so many directions in which you could take the premise you established here that it is fruitless to speculate on it at this point. Interesting, but fruitless.

"Combat Wombat and His Howlin' Critters"? Hmmm. I had always wanted Dave Sim to proceed with his idea of "Frontline Wombat", but maybe this will do in the interim. The

cast of characters looks pretty good and the mix of humour and drama should fit right in here. But say, how about a moose or a polar bear or something to represent good ol' Canada?

Yours Truly,
"T.M. Maple"

Weston, Ontario, Canada

PS: Say, why does EB'NN cost as much as the other Now titles when they are in colour and this mag is not? (Hey, if I complimented you for your low price for the number of pages in your previous format, I've got to ask this question now, don't I?)



T.M., the reason EB'NN costs the same as Now's color books is simply explained. Color books are more profitable (of course, unless your b&w title is selling more copies!). But compare EB'NN to the other black and white titles that print 24 newsprint pages for \$1.70 and up. The book you hold in your hand is 32 pages printed on a nice white stock for only \$1.50. So as low print run, b&w titles go, EB'NN is a pretty good deal.

Also, I'd like to disagree with your assessment of EXCALIBUR and the mood swings of EB'NN.

Personally, I found the "light-hearted" beginning and the "grim" ending of EXCALIBUR, a film about the corruption of innocence, to form contrasting punches which made a great impact upon me. In fact, an impact so great that I remember the film vividly even though I've only seen it once when it was first released. So it is these "contrasting punches" that hopefully will cause EB'NN to have an impact upon the continuing reader. As corny as it may sound, life can be outrageously silly and tragically serious. Hopefully, even though it is only a comic book, I'd like EB'NN to reflect the diversity of everyday life. I'm working on it.

It was less than a year ago when I was going for a walk and decided to stop in at my friend Bob's apartment. He and his roommates were home listening to Husker Du. Bob questioned my ALBEDO t-shirt, asking what it was. I said it was my favorite comic book (of my short collecting career). I said I liked "funny" animal comics. He inquired if I had ever read EB'NN and I said "Yes, it was very good." Then he said, "My brother writes EB'NN." I replied, "And I have a Bible autographed by the author!" Then he showed me the name inside #2 and I said "Holy Cow!" I explained to him that it was very tough finding EB'NN since there was only one comic store in town. So he called you up and had you send a couple of copies down. Thanks!

Well, two new shops have opened close to campus this year. Now it is no longer a major quest to find a copy of EB'NN. (Now all I have to do is find your brother.) EB'NN #4 is your best book yet. The one book/one plot is a very good format. The

storyline was wonderful and wonderfully funny. I'm looking forward to seeing COMBAT WOMBAT as a new title (Is it in the works?).

Edward J. Kandl
Urbana, IL

P.S. I caught Eb'nn in BORIS THE BEAR #2. Cute. Really cute.

youthful appeal holds up for a long time. As for COMBAT WOMBAT... Who knows? And speaking of my brother...

Thanks for your impressions, Bro. By the way, what's Janet studying to be in college? A lawyer? Oh well, I'm sure she'll do fine if she doesn't have to look at the pictures.

Mike, thanks for the comics. EB'NN #4 was groovy. I especially like his "Kung Fu" flashback. (You sure it was a violin, and not a flute, the Di'Est was teaching?) The issue was a little more lighthearted than the first three, and I like that. I made/forced Janet to read #4. She said it was easier to follow. She has trouble reading comics because she doesn't look at the pictures. (I told Chris he was wasting his time. -MD)



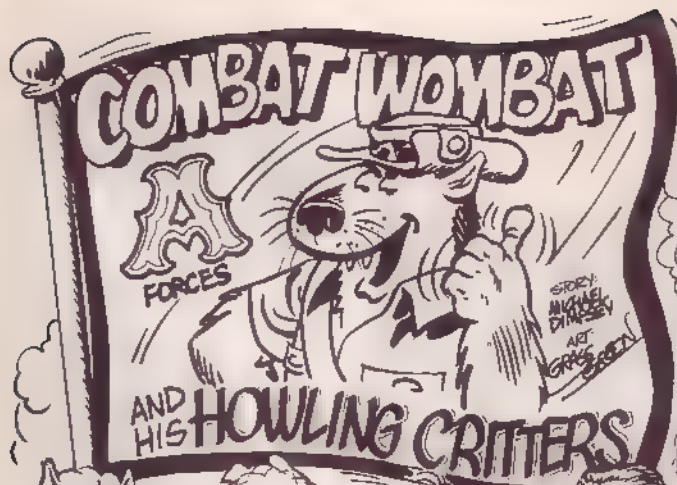
Also, nice introduction of characters in COMBAT WOMBAT. It seems like an interesting bunch of guys, but SILVERWING is still my favorite.

Brother Bob
Urbana, IL

P.S. It takes 8 minutes for light to travel from the sun to the Earth, and yet it's never late.

Well, Ed, I'm glad you think EB'NN is "cute"! I hope his

Hmmm, three letters... One from T.M., who writes to every book currently being published. One from a friend of my brother's. One from my brother. Yep, that makes three! Gee, if my mom had written then I could have filled up this issue's letter column.



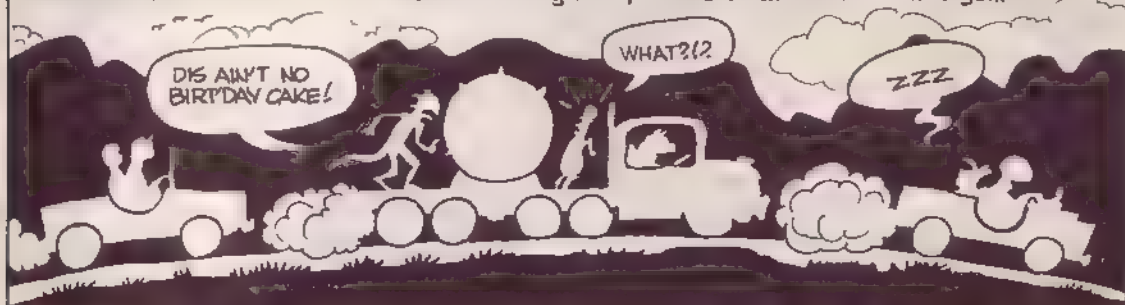
OVER A CENTURY AGO, ALL THE FREE NATIONS OF THE WORLD FORMED THE ALLIANCE, IN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE EVIL EMPIRE OF B.O. HISSER!

SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN THAT "WAR TO END ALL WARS" WERE COUNTLESS! THEIR UN-SELFISH, HEROIC DEEDS WERE GREAT AND MANY! --EVEN WHEN CAME--

B-DAY!



"Dear Mom... Led by our fabulous leader, *Combat Wombat*, the *Howling Critters* (that's me & the guys!), have undertaken a mission for The *ALLIANCE* that's extremely hazardous! --Not ONLY does the fate of the free world dangle by a mere thread of our war-togs--"



"But General McHamster's surprise party could be completely RUINED!!"

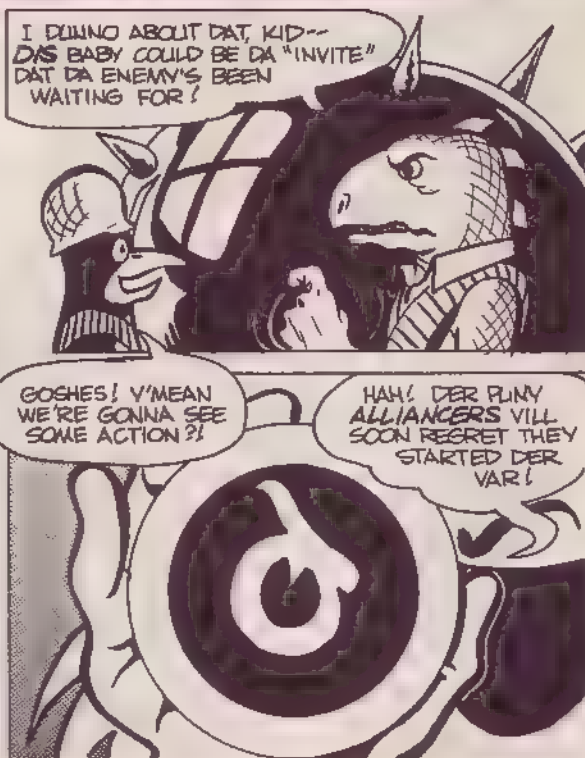
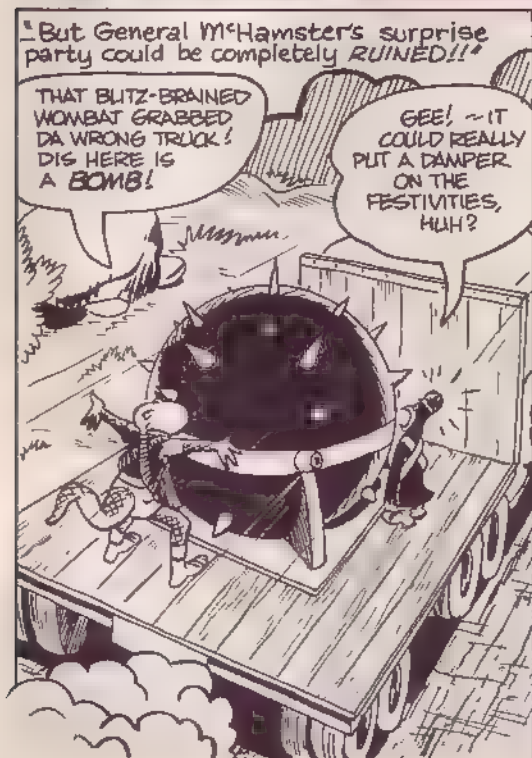
THAT BLITZ-BRAINED WOMBAT GRABBED DA WRONG TRUCK! DIS HERE IS A BOMB!

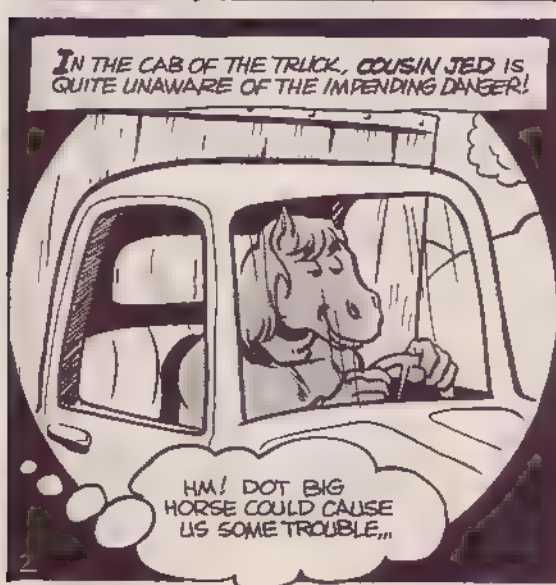
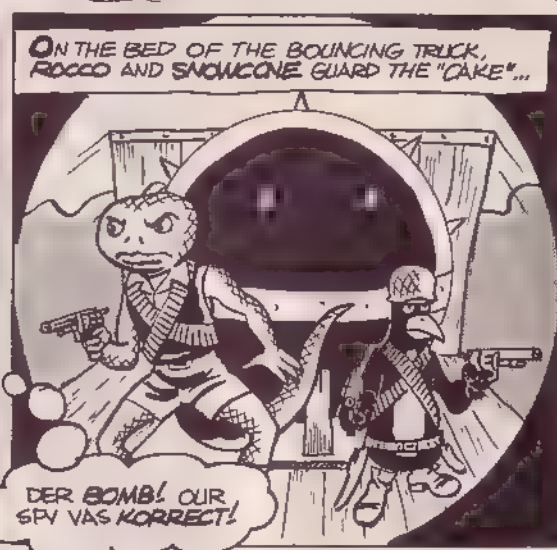
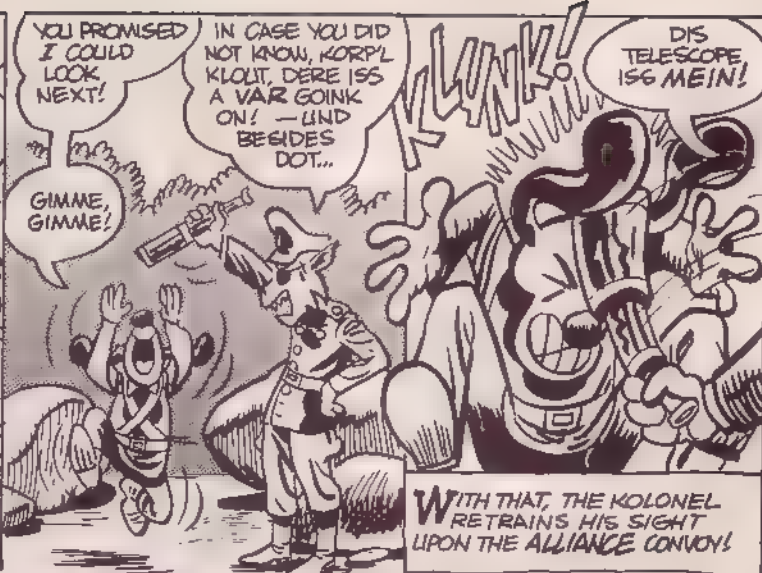
GEE! --IT COULD REALLY PUT A DAMPER ON THE FESTIVITIES, HUH?

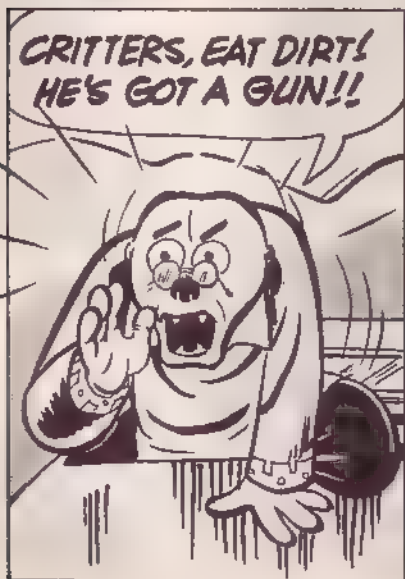
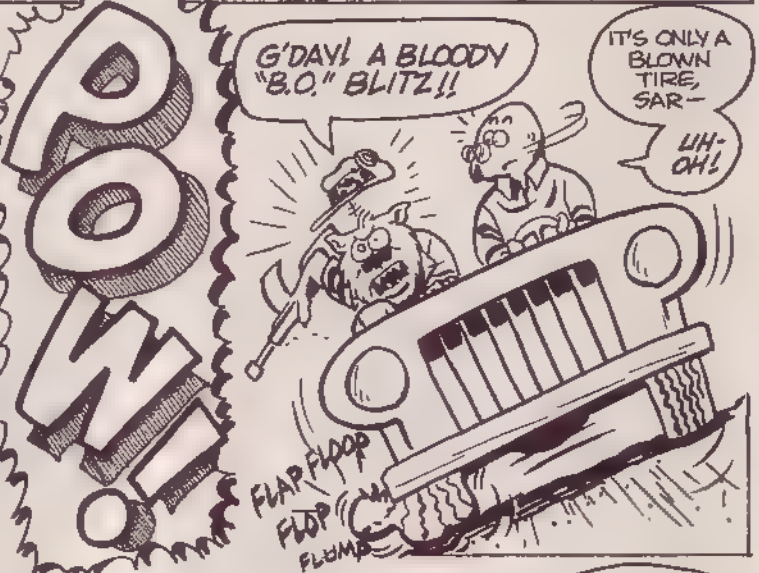
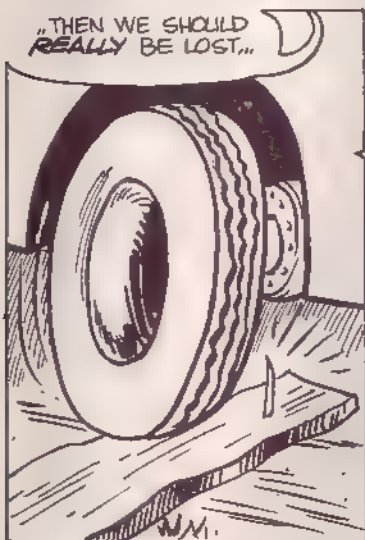
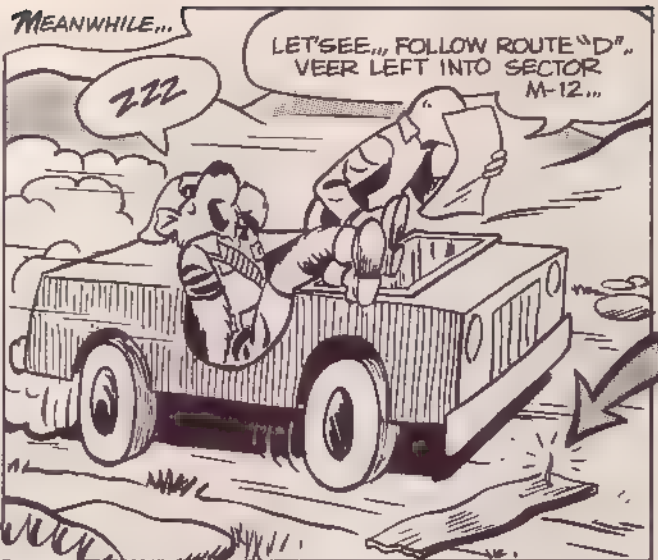
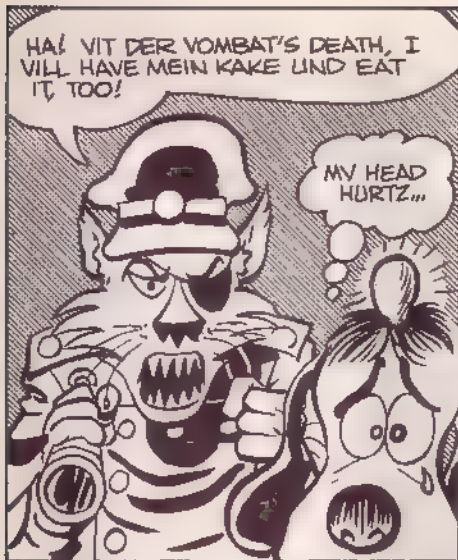
I DUNNO ABOUT DAT, KID-- DIS BABY COULD BE DA "INVITE" DAT DA ENEMY'S BEEN WAITING FOR!

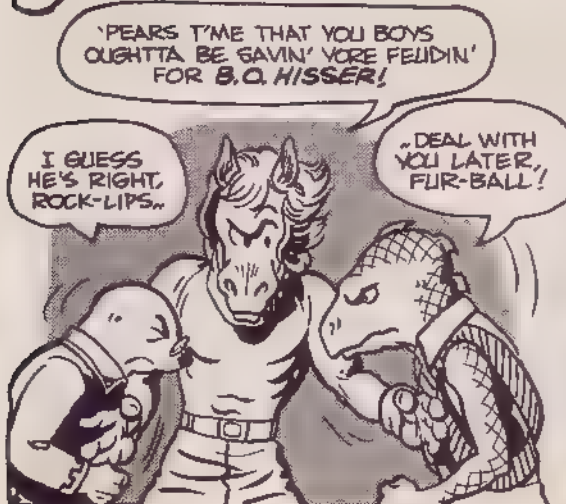
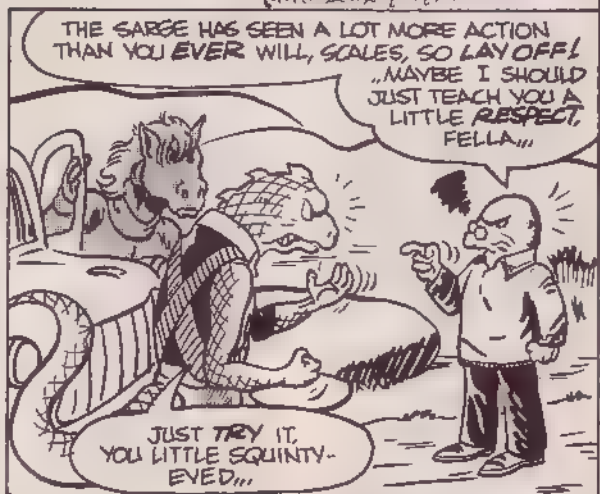
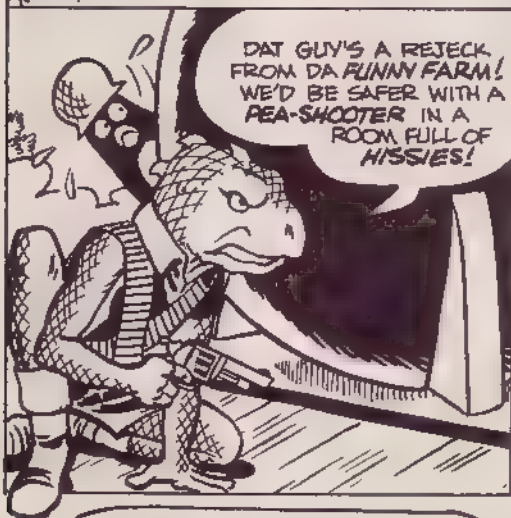
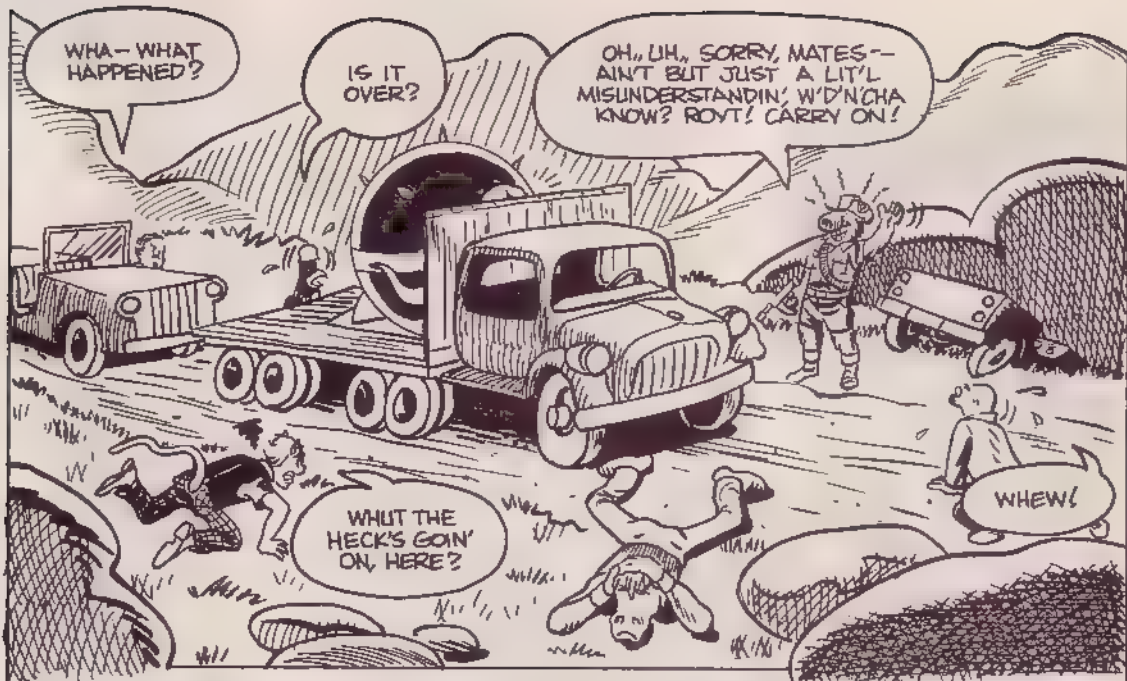
GOSHES! Y'MEAN WE'RE GONNA SEE SOME ACTION?!

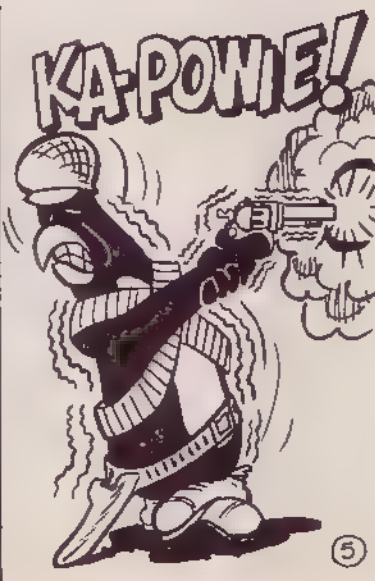
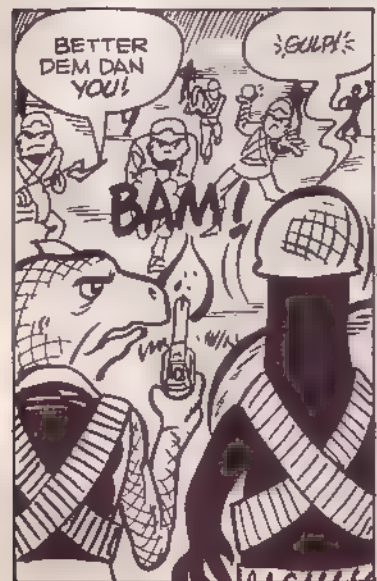
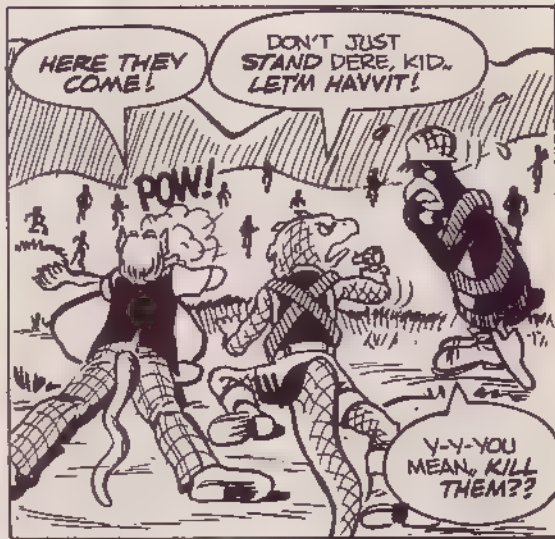
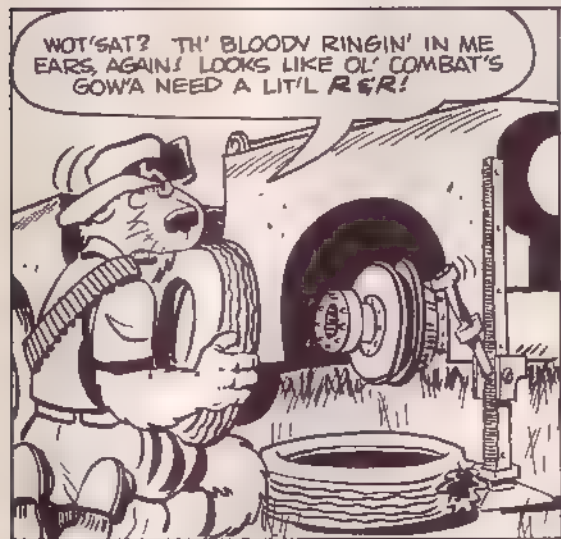
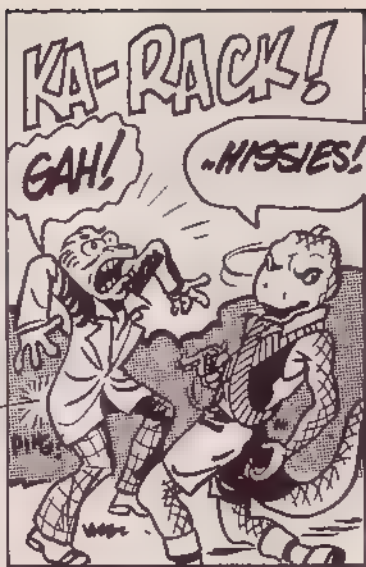
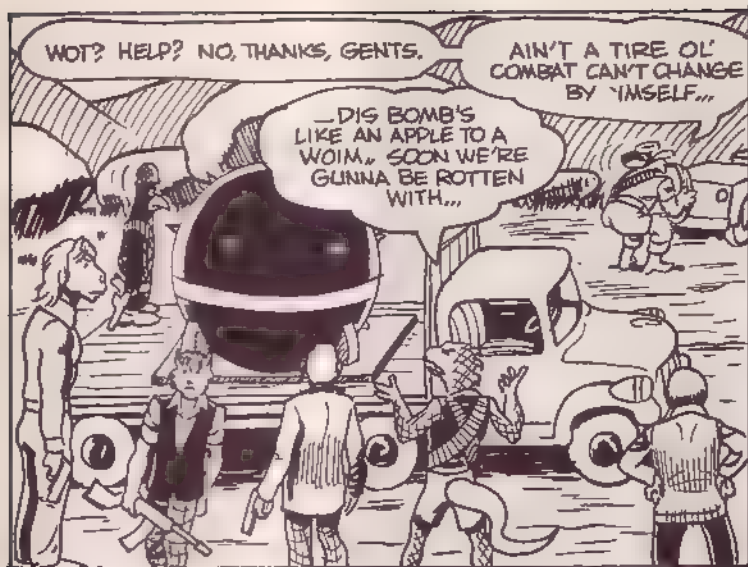
HAH! DER RUNY ALLIANCE'S VILL SOON REGRET THEY STARTED DER WAR!

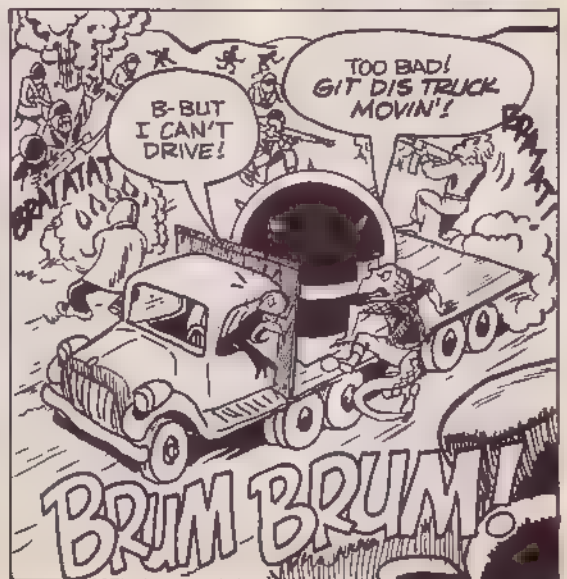
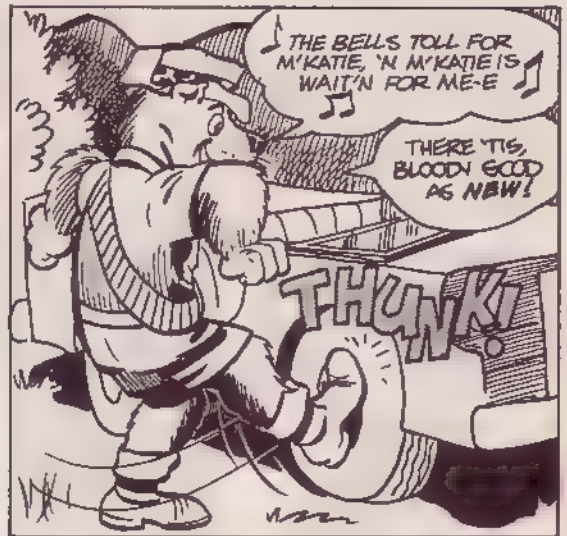
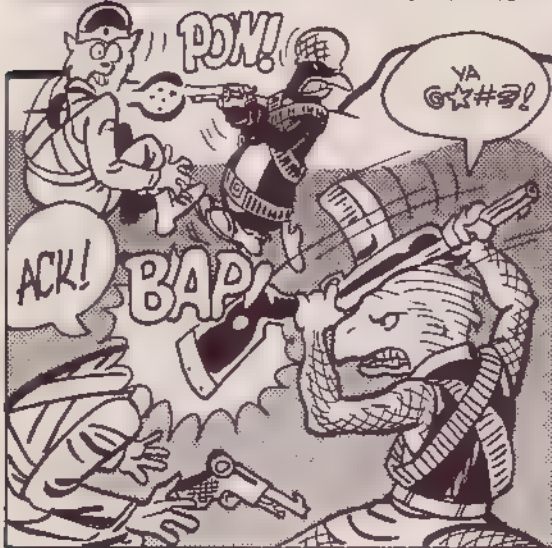
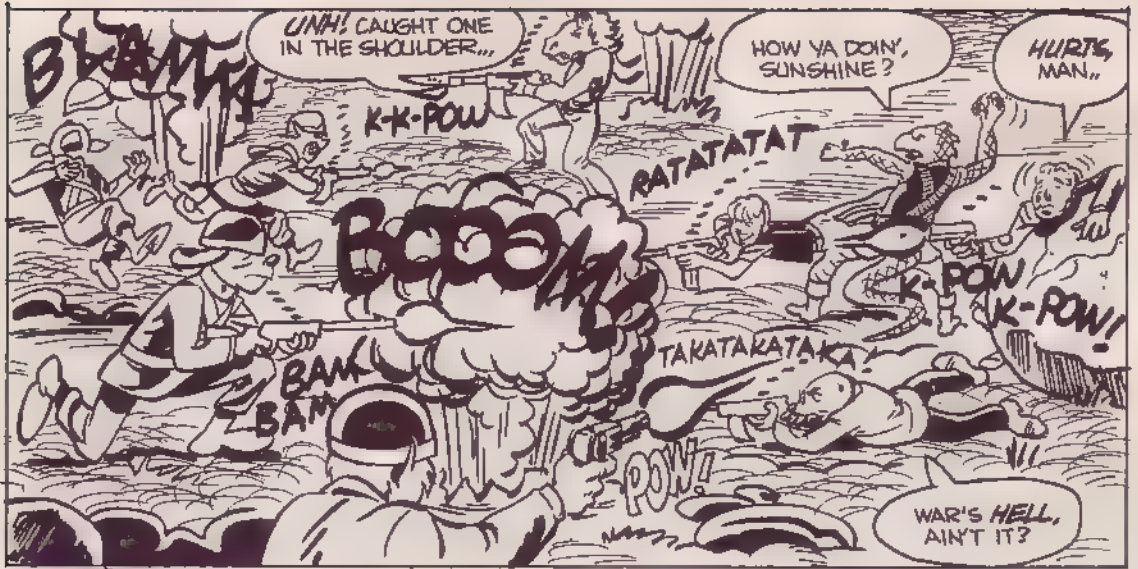


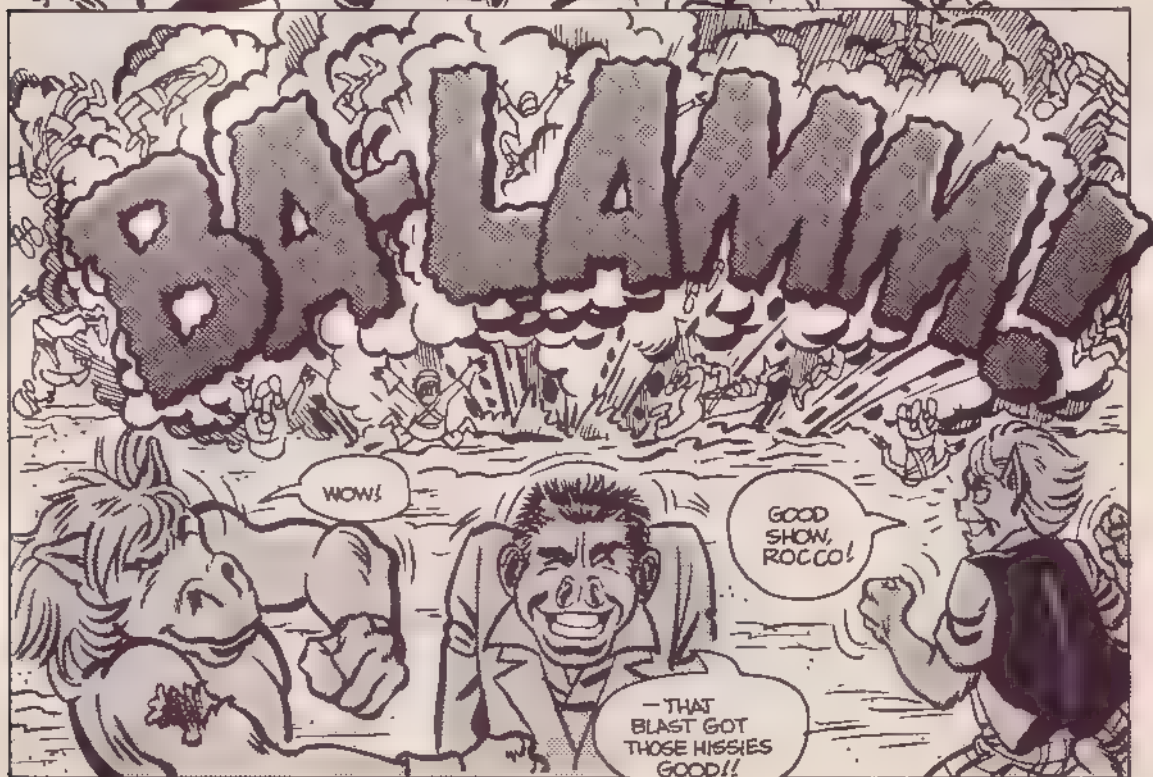
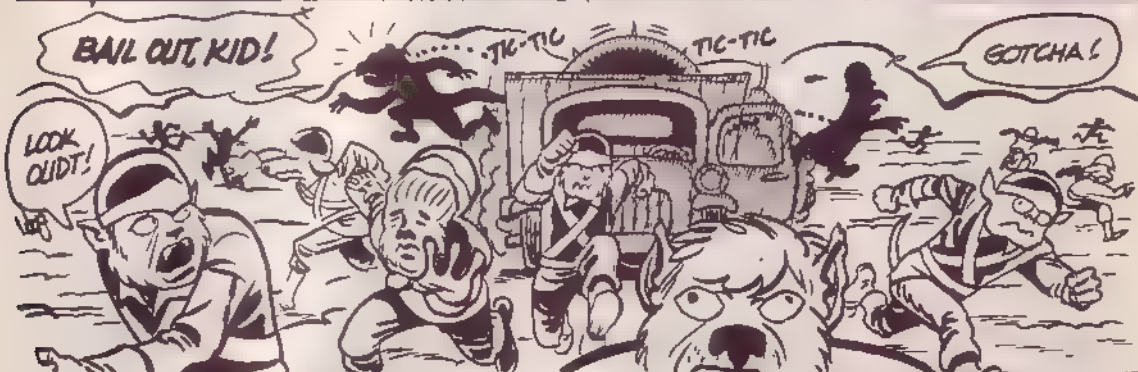
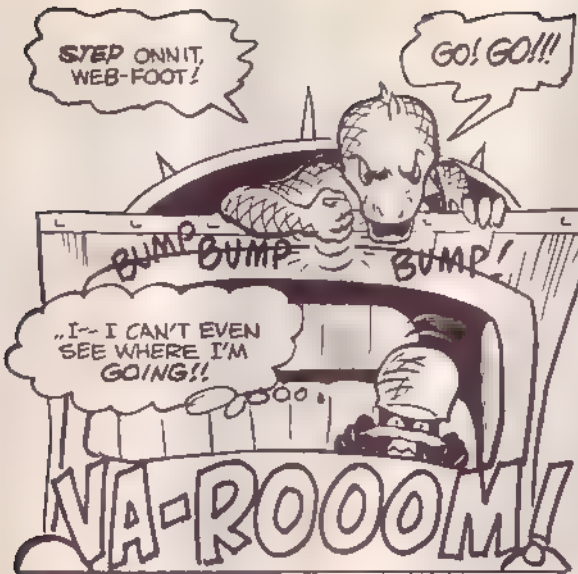


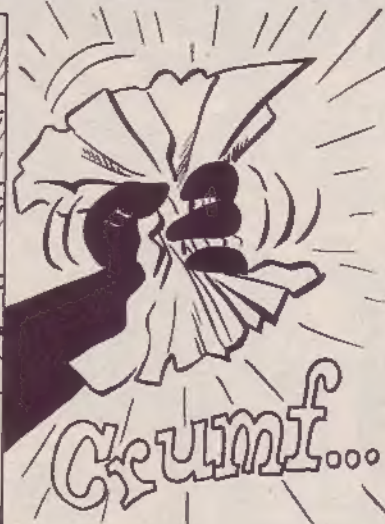
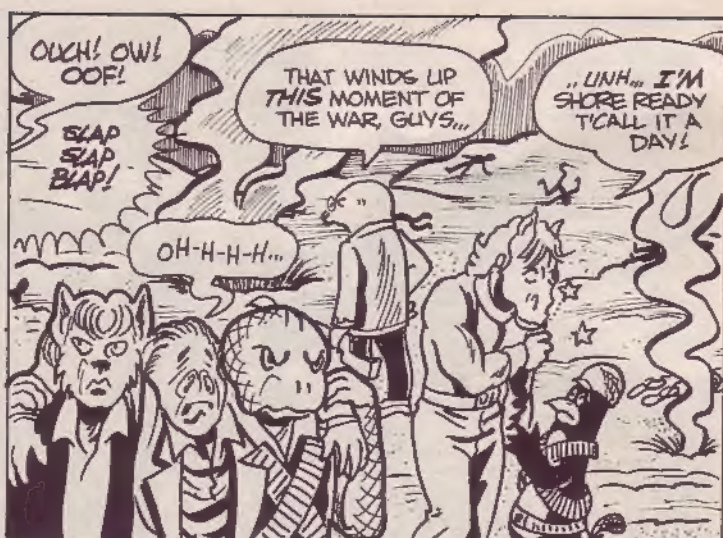












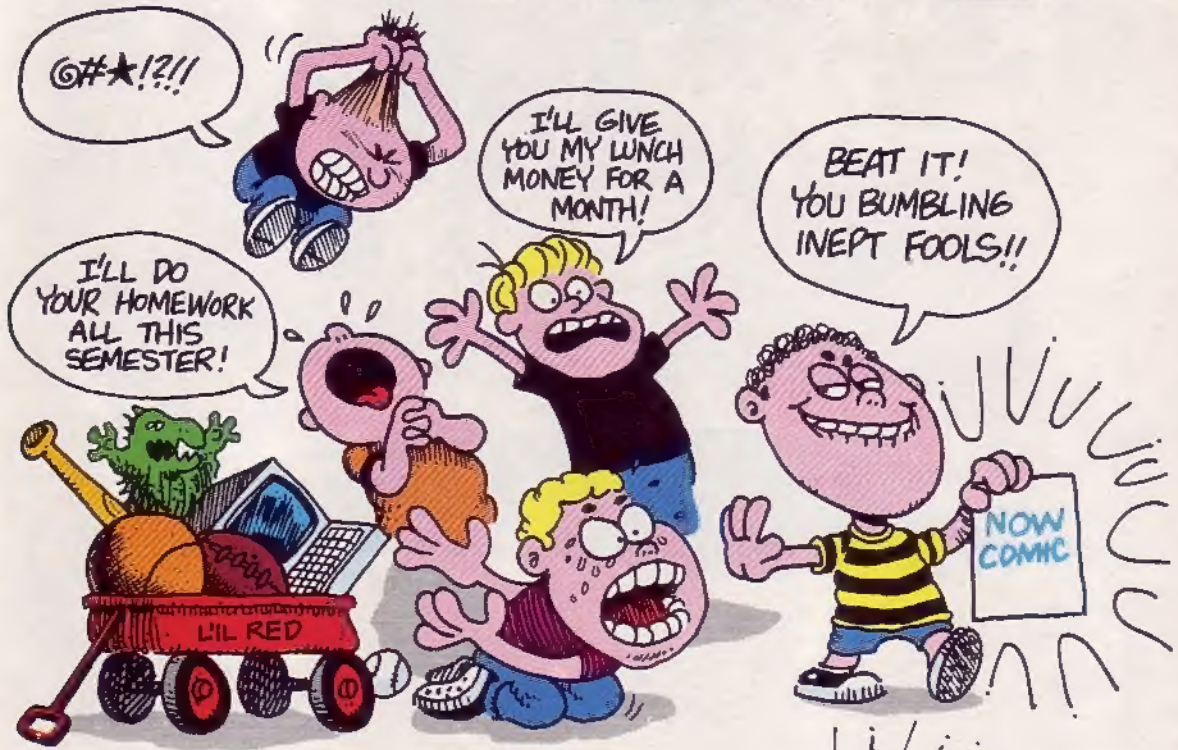


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